

State EMS Advisory Board
Richmond Marriott West, Glen Allen, Virginia
Friday, August 17, 2007
1:00 PM

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Staff:	Others:
Randy P. Abernathy Byron F. Andrews, III J. David Barrick Edward B. Bish, Jr. Jason D. Campbell Jennie L. Collins Gary P. Critzer Robert V. Crowder, III Gary Dalton Kevin L. Dillard James R. Dudley, M.D. Bruce Edwards May H. Fox L.V. Pokey Harris Linda G. Johnson Kimberly J. Mitchell, M.D. Dr. Lori Moore Morris Reece Linda Sayles Karen D. Wagner Carl F. Wentzel, M.D. Anthony Wilson	Sherrin C. Alsop Reverend Coan Agee Rao R. Ivatury, M.D. Clarence Monday Douglas R. Young	Gary Brown Scott Winston Rohn Brown Ken Crumpler Tim Perkins Amanda Davis Henry Bosman Carol Morrow Greg Neiman Beth Singer Wayne Berry Winnie Pennington Karen Owens Warren Short S. Heather Phillips Michael D. Berg Dennis Molnar David P. Edwards Terry Coy Wanda Street Irene Hamilton	Lisa Kaplowitz, M.D. Allen Yee, M.D. Matthew Cobb Carol Gilbert, M.D. Jim Chandler John Boatwright Ed Rhodes Art Lipscomb Steve Puckett Hershel Kreis John Cooke Greg Woods Zeb Lilly Pat Pope David E. Cullen, Jr. Tina Skinner Dan Fermil Jon R. Donnelly Deborah T. Akers Dreama Chandler Rob Logan Kent J. Weber Randall H. Geldreish, M.D. Robert O'Connor, M.D.

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order – Karen Wagner	Ms. Wagner called the meeting to order at 1 PM. Approval of Minutes – The minutes from the May 18, 2007 were approved.	

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	Approval of Agenda – The agenda for the meeting was approved.	
Special Presentation – Delegate John M. O’Bannon, III	Delegate O’Bannon presented Carol Gilbert, the former State EMS Medical Director, with a Commending Resolution, passed by both the Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate. Dr. Gilbert served as OEMS State Medical Director from 1993 through 2006.	
Chairman’s Report – Karen Wagner	<p>Ms. Wagner reported that the consensus of a task force that looked at EMS meeting dates, and what day of the week would work best for Board members, that Friday would be the best day for the Advisory Board meeting. Therefore, the meetings will continue to be held on Fridays. The task force is still trying to determine if there is a need to move some of the committee meetings to encourage more member participation.</p> <p>Upon the direction of the Board at the May meeting, Ms Wagner has sent two letters to the Office of the Attorney General. One letter asked to have the adjudication process expedited; and the other letter emphasized the Office of EMS’s need for more full time representation from the Office of the Attorney General.</p> <p>An outcome of the January 2007 Advisory Board Retreat, which was held to discuss the placement of the Office of EMS in state government, was the need for more education throughout the EMS system for better understanding of how EMS functions within state government. Ms. Wagner reported that Rob Logan and Jason Campbell have developed an educational piece entitled “Virginia OEMS Where to Call Home, the Debate Continues”. This is a supplement to an article that appeared in Mr. Campbell’s Fire and Rescue magazine. Board members were encouraged to use this article to help them to educate their constituents in regards to this issue.</p>	
1st Vice Chair Report – Randy Abernathy	Mr. Abernathy reported on the EMS Town Forum that was held on July 24 in Kilmarnock, Virginia. It was a well attended meeting, and the primary focus of the providers who attended was educational issues, such as accreditation and ALS issues.	
2nd Vice Chair – Jennie Collins	No report.	
State EMS Medical Director – Dr. Allen Yee	<p>Dr. Yee reported that there are plans underway to hold a ST Elevation MI (STEMI) Summit in 2008. The plan is to have stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth come together to discuss the care of heart attack patients and evaluate the need for statewide treatment protocols.</p> <p>The Medical Direction Committee approved the use of a Cyano kit in Virginia. This is an antidote for cyanide poisoning.</p> <p>Also the Medical Direction Committee is in the process of working on a web based discussion board for the medical directors. Currently, one of the councils is hosting the discussion board on their server. The plan is to have a discussion board among the medical control members, as well as general discussion among all medical directors, and each individual regional EMS council will need to have their own section to discuss issues pertaining to their own council.</p> <p>Dr. Yee has asked the Regional EMS councils to look at a process to exchange drugs during mass</p>	

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Office of EMS Reports – Gary Brown and Staff	<p>gatherings or mass casualties events. The councils have come up with a concept of creating a statewide stat box. Dr. Yee hopes this will be put in place during the current fiscal year.</p> <p><u>Attorney General Office Representation</u> - Because of the heavy workload presented by the Office of EMS and the State EMS Advisory Board, the Attorney General’s Office decided to transfer the responsibility for advising the Office of EMS from Robin Kurz, since she only worked part time. Matt Cobb has been assigned as the new Attorney General’s Office representative to the Office of EMS and the State EMS Advisory Board. Mr. Brown thanked Robin Kurz for all her guidance over the last few years.</p> <p><u>Advisory Board Appointment</u> – Dr. Cheryl Lawson has been appointed to fill the seat being vacated by Dr. Kimberly Mitchell. Dr. Lawson will be representing the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. Dr. Lawson was unable to attend the meeting because of the short notice between the appointment and the Advisory Board meeting.</p> <p><u>EMS for Children</u> – Mr. Brown introduced David Edwards, a new OEMS employee, who will be the new EMS for Children Coordinator for the Office of EMS.</p> <p><u>State EMS Medical Director Position</u> – The Office of EMS has received approval to establish the position as a part time wage position. The position will be advertised once it has been classified by the Office of Human Resources.</p> <p><u>Four for Life Program</u> – Mr. Brown explained some changes in the disbursement of Four-for-Life funds that will take place in the next fiscal year. OEMS was directed to develop a plan that would decrease the year end cash balances. OEMS has decided to shift the collection period and payment process in order to comply in FY 2008.</p> <p><u>Board of Health</u> – the Board of Health has approved the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action for EMS, as well as the Regulations Governing Regional EMS Councils and Financial Assistance for EMS.</p> <p><u>HJR 743</u> – This study is a joint sub committee studying incentives for fire and rescue squad volunteers met on July 24; and is scheduled to meet again on August 23. The Office of EMS and the Department of Fire Programs have been requested to make presentations to the joint sub committee.</p> <p><u>EMSAT Program</u> – An EMSAT program is being produced that will air in October describing the importance of diversity in the Fire and EMS workplace. Fire and EMS staffs from across Virginia are being interviewed and will be featured in the one hour video. Mr. Brown recognized Terry Coy and Rohn Brown from OEMS for their efforts on this project.</p> <p><u>Regional EMS Council Study</u> – The study is being finalized and it should be sent to Mr. Brown in the next week. The Office of EMS will be reviewing the report for factual accuracy and to assure that it</p>	

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	<p>met the specifications of the RFP. Mr. Brown has a scheduled meeting with Drs. Stroube and Kaplowitz on Thursday, August 23 to brief them on the report. Following that meeting, a plan will be developed for distribution to the Board, Regional EMS councils and the public.</p> <p><u>Virginia EMS Symposium</u> – The November Advisory Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7, at the EMS Symposium in Norfolk. Mr. Brown encouraged Board members to attend not only the meeting but the Symposium, which will offer 300 classes this year. Board members receive free registration for the Symposium and are also offered one night's lodging. Board members interested in attending should complete the registration form and fax it to Irene Hamilton.</p> <p><u>Virginia Poison Control Network</u> - OEMS has made some adjustments to the service areas. This information is available in the Quarterly Report, as well as on the OEMS web site. Jurisdictions and EMS agencies affected by the realignment will be notified.</p> <p><u>Quarterly Meetings with the Department of Fire Programs</u> – These meetings are still taking place and are going well.</p> <p><u>Town Forum in Central Shenandoah</u> – The next town forum is scheduled Tuesday, October 16 at 7 PM. More details will be forthcoming.</p> <p>Scott Winston's Report:</p> <p><u>State Office of Rural Health</u> – In June, Mr. Winston, along with Tim Perkins and Rohn Brown, attended a meeting to discuss the State Rural Health Plan. They are currently working with the State Office of Rural Health on a study looking at three of the six critical access hospitals in the state and how those services are integrated with EMS within those communities. They are also participating in discussions regarding the development of the Rural Health Plan.</p> <p>OEMS is looking at the possibility of holding some fiscal management workshops for the rural EMS community through a regional grant that is funded by a national organization of State Offices of Rural Health.</p>	
Office of the Attorney General – Matt Cobb	Mr. Cobb did not have an official report. He acknowledged the help of his predecessor, Robin Kurz, who has made this a smooth transition.	
Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Preparedness and Response – Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz	Dr. Kaplowitz did not have a formal report. She did report that she meets with Gary Brown weekly in an effort to keep up with all of the major issues of EMS. Dr. Kaplowitz acknowledged the work of several EMS stakeholders from Southwest Virginia, Rob Logan, Dr. Carol Gilbert and Morris Reece, who have worked with her in documenting the collaboration that took place after the shooting at Virginia Tech. Dr. Kaplowitz also noted that Morris Reece is taking lead and trying to put a grant together for collaboration among the trauma centers.	

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	Dr. Kaplowitz was asked to address the decision to move the Department of Education from the Office of EMS to an offsite location. Dr. Kaplowitz said that this decision has been made by Dr. Stroube, and that the decision is a final decision.	
Special Guest – Dr. Robert O’Connor, M.D.	<p>Mr. Michael Berg introduced a special guest at the meeting, Dr. Robert O’Connor. Dr. Connor is the new Director of Emergency Medicine at the University of Virginia. Dr. O’Connor is the Immediate Past President of the National Association of EMS Physicians, and a former state EMS medical director.</p> <p>Dr. O’Connor said that he has been in his position since July. He is also the current President of Advocates for EMS, he has served on the board of the National Registry, and has done work with the Heart Association for ACLS in the past year. Dr. O’Connor wanted the board to know that he is anxious to work with the Advisory Board in the future.</p>	
Awards Selection Committee – Karen Wagner	Ms. Wagner reported that all of the award nominations have been received and distributed to the committee members. The committee will meet on September 7 to grade the awards and make recommendations to the Governor for the Governor’s Awards that will be given out at the Symposium.	
Communications Committee – Gary Critzer	<p>Mr. Critzer introduced a new committee member, Hershel Kreis, who is representing the Virginia Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association.</p> <p>The committee met earlier in the day. The committee discussed several topics, including the VHF High Band Initiative. Page County received reaccreditation status. The Communications Directory is still available on line; and the print copy is not yet available. It should be available soon.</p> <p>The committee recognized the ongoing collaboration between the OEMS Communications staff and the VITA Public Safety staff. They have been working closely together and traveling the state to meet with PSAPs, to work towards the goal of more 911 Centers that are involved with emergency medical dispatch and the accreditation program.</p> <p>The next meeting will be in November at the Symposium; and the date will be announced later.</p>	
CISM Committee – Linda Johnson	<p>The committee met on August 15. They started planning for the 2008 Conference.</p> <p>There are currently two scheduled basic trainings available. Information is on the OEMS web site.</p>	
EMS Emergency Management Committee – Bubby Bish	<p>The committee met August 2.</p> <p>Ken Crumpler reported that the Communications Directory is available on line and that any additions or corrections would be available within 90 days.</p> <p>Winnie Pennington stated that the HRSA, National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program Grant has been completed. She will be distributing copies of the EMS Surge Planning Template and Toolbox for MCI in Virginia to the Regional EMS councils and interested EMS agencies.</p> <p>Ms. Pennington has started to work on the Family Protection Plan for OEMS and the Department of</p>	

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	<p>Fire Programs. This is to help families in times of disasters. Winnie has developed a disaster supply list, which is available via the OEMS web site.</p> <p>Karen Owens reported that the MCI I-II training is going well. The state now has 20 new instructors that can teach Mass Casualty I & II. Ms. Owens will be traveling to Baltimore, Maryland to teach the Train the Trainer program next month.</p> <p>The next meeting is November 1 at the Marriott.</p>	
Emergency Medical Services for Children – Dr. Theresa Guins	<p>Dr. Guins welcomed Mr. Edwards, the new EMS for Children Coordinator. Dr. Guins also acknowledged an award given at the Federal EMSC grantee meeting to Betsy Smith for Outstanding Service to EMS for Children in June.</p> <p>The committee met on July 12, and several issues were discussed. The issue of EMS providers being mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect was discussed. Mr. Edwards and OEMS staff has developed an on line survey to send to providers across the Commonwealth to assess their knowledge and attitudes regarding this issue.</p> <p>The committee also discussed the issue of how to safely restrain infants and children in the back of an ambulance. Dr. Guins will be working with several other committees on that issue in the coming months.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled October 18.</p>	
EMS Workforce Development Committee – Kevin Dillard	<p>The committee met on July 26. They received reports from their four subcommittees. They are continuing to work on the establishment of the Leadership and Management standards and pursuing a comprehensive recruitment campaign. They are also working on the development of a Virginia Standards of Excellence accreditation program, as well as the promotion of the “Keeping the Best Retention” tool kit. The committee is also working on the Recruitment section of the OEMS web site.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on October 25.</p>	

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Finance, Legislation and Planning – Gary Dalton	<p>The committee met earlier in the day. They received a report from Tim Perkins regarding the State Plan. The committee also discussed the legislative agenda of different agencies at the Virginia Fire Services Council Legislative Summit.</p> <p>The committee is bringing forth two action items for consideration by the Board.</p> <p>MOTION: The Financial, Legislative and Planning Committee recommends to the EMS Advisory Board that it support a bill to amend the Code of Virginia 32.1-111.9 Application for Variances or Exemptions that presently reads in two places “a Volunteer Rescue Squad” and replace that wording with “an agency, entity or provider, licensed or certified by the Office of Emergency Medical Services”.</p> <p>MOTION: The Financial, Legislative and Planning Committee recommends to the EMS Advisory Board that it support a bill to amend the Code of Virginia 32.1-111.4 to allow the Office of EMS to suspend any license, certification, designation or endorsement issued by the Office of EMS to any agency, person, or other entity without a hearing when it could cause a substantial danger to the public health and safety.</p> <p>VAGEMSA has changed its representative to the Financial, Legislative and Planning Committee from Randy Abernathy to Jennie Collins.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled in Virginia Beach on September 28 in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads Convention at 3 PM.</p>	<p>VOTE: 21 YEAS; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSTENTIONS THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY</p> <p>VOTE: 21 YEAS; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSTENTIONS THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY</p>
Finance Assistance Review Committee – Amanda Davis	<p>FARC met on Thursday, 8/16, at 1 PM. They have a new committee member, Dan Butler, representing the REMS area. Members received a FARC Orientation notebook. All of the grants will be submitted on line for the next grant cycle.</p> <p>They have six funding priorities, EMD, Emergency Operations, Training, Special Projects, Multi-jurisdictional Agency Projects; and they have added Recruitment and Retention as a priority. They will be working with the Workforce Development Committee for assistance and help in grading grants.</p> <p>They will be conducting a grant workshop at Symposium, “Free Money” that is being taught by Ms. Davis and Linwood Pulling. They are also working on the RSAF Brochure. FARC will be having their Fall tour in the PEMS region.</p> <p>DHS Grant – The Department of Homeland Security has made their announcement; and Virginia was awarded \$13.6 million dollars. That is only for the Homeland Security program. There are also four other entities, including MMRS portion, the Law Enforcement Terrorism program, and two other</p>	

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	<p>programs. The section that the Office of EMS applied for comes under the Homeland Security program. On August 21, the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness will be conducting a committee training. That committee will look at the grant proposals and investments and scale down the project to see who will get money. They have not actually selected the committee, as yet. On August 23, the agencies that wrote the Investment Justifications will be meeting to go through each investment justification. Ms. Davis is hopeful that she will have a better understanding of whether OEMS will receive funding to update the PPCR database after the August 23 meeting.</p>	
Medevac Committee – Randy Abernathy	<p>The committee met on July 26. The committee continues work on Best Practices. At the July 26 meeting, there was a presentation on a Safe Alert Program, and the survivor of a helicopter crash that occurred as a result of an organization accepting a mission after two other agencies had turned it down due to weather emphasized the importance of informing other crews when flights have been turned down by other crews. The committee is looking to see if this will be applicable statewide.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled October 25 at 10 AM.</p>	
Medical Direction Committee – Dr. James Dudley	<p>The committee met July 12 and they have no action items.</p>	
Professional Development Committee – Dr. Dudley	<p>The committee met on July 11.</p> <p>They accepted the recommendations of the BLS Committee in respect to EMS BLS Testing. The recommendation was to remove from the BLS Practical Testing the completion of the PPCR for the Medical and Trauma Emergencies station.</p> <p>The recommendation of the BLS Test Committee to continue the current suspension of the AED Practical Station pending the completion of the rollout of the new AED algorithms by the AHA.</p> <p>There was a recommendation from the BLS Pilot Steering Committee with respect to competences and competency testing in their pilot programs. There are multiple pilot programs in the Commonwealth for teaching BLS. Those pilot programs are going well. There is a checklist of skills that the EMT Basics have to complete before they can be signed off as competent. The committee has recommended that some of the requirements be dropped or decreased slightly. The Professional Development Committee was in favor and they have forwarded it to the Medical Direction Committee who will address it at their next meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled in mid October.</p>	
Regulation and Policy Committee – Jennie Collins	<p>The FARC and Regional EMS council regulations were approved by the Board of Health and the Department of Planning and Budget has also approved the regulations. The regulations are in the Secretary's Office and after they leave the Secretary's Office they will go to the Governor for signature. The Registrar will post them for 30 days, following that the Office of EMS will distribute hard copies to all EMS agencies and organizations.</p>	

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	<p>The NOIRA for the EMS Regulations, which include the updated Training Section, Medevac, and Operation Medical Director, as well as the agency information, was approved by the Board of Health and the Department of Planning and Budget. It is also at the Secretary's Office.</p> <p>The Regulation and Policy Committee has started to discuss the number and placement of public hearings that they need to plan for; and information will be forthcoming.</p> <p>At the meeting yesterday, the Regulation and Policy Committee went on record that they support the continued effort and strongly encourage the Virginia Department of Health to increase their support for the Office of EMS efforts to advance the PPCR Program revisions and include the NEMISIS Compliance Data Set.</p> <p>Dr. Moore asked about action on the NEMISIS Compliance Data Set. Dr. Moore is a member of the National Task Force for NEMISIS, and Virginia is the last state that needs to come into compliance. Dr. Moore asked the committee to come out with something stronger than just a support statement.</p> <p>Gary Brown addressed some of the problems that OEMS are facing with NEMISIS Compliance. A big part of the problem is hindered by lack of IT support. Mr. Brown explained that the VDH IT Strategic Plan has to incorporate the PPCR project. After that time, it has to go back to VITA.</p> <p>Mr. Brown went on record to answer a question from Dr. Moore, stating that Virginia did not turn down NHTSA funding for this program. Mr. Brown said that the Office of EMS can fund the project, but they just need the approval to move forward. Dr. Kaplowitz said that she will work with Gary to get this project moving forward.</p> <p>The next meeting is October 2 at 10 AM. The work session is to review the Training section that is currently in the Attorney General's Office so they can get a look at it before their November meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Collins asked that an update report be given at the November meeting and the potential interim fixes for agencies.</p> <p>Mr. Abernathy asked that if in the interim there might be a Stay issued for regulatory enforcement for agencies that are making a good faith effort to supply data. Mr. Brown said that he would work on that request.</p> <p>Ms. Wagner agreed that a report will be given at the November meeting.</p>	<p>Based on the discussion regarding NEMISIS Compliance and its importance, Randy Abernathy made the following motion:</p> <p>MOTION: The EMS Advisory Board makes a strong recommendation that NEMISIS Compliance become a priority item, and that at the November Board meeting there is a plan in place.</p> <p>VOTE: YEAS = 20; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 1 (Pokey Harris)</p> <p>Ms. Wagner said that she will determine where communications need to be sent and push the issue forward.</p> <p>It was suggested that perhaps Advisory Board members could visit VITA's IT Investment Board to discuss this issue.</p>
Transportation Committee – David Barrick	At the last Board meeting, the Transportation Committee was asked to do a follow up about a Traffic Incident Management Committee that may be established in the State; but has no EMS representation.	

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	<p>Mr. Barrick has spoken with VDOT; he discovered that there is no committee in place. There was a meeting held because of a specific question that had come up from a locality regarding the use of traffic vests. Mr. Barrick was assured that if a committee was formed, that EMS would be given representation.</p> <p>The Transportation Committee was also tasked with reviewing the State Ambulance Contract. There is currently not a contract in place. The committee had a special called meeting on July 11 at which time they reviewed all three current specifications. The current specifications will stand with the addition of adding some “must price options” to the proposal based on feedback.</p> <p>The committee met again on August 6. At that meeting they reviewed the changes made on July 11 and sent back changes to the Office of EMS. They are trying to schedule a meeting with the Department of General Services so that they can get a contract in place.</p>	
Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee – Morris Reece	<p>The committee met on June 7.</p> <p>The committee is working on a possible grant that affects the delivery of trauma care and emergency care in the state.</p> <p>The committee is also looking for a possible source of funding for the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma to come into the state and do a quality improvement project, a review of the trauma processes in the state to give an overall assessment of our program.</p> <p>The committee is looking at the possibility of a fourth level of trauma center designation. The committee wants to determine if there is a role for a Level 4 Trauma Center that would be primarily emergency based; and more applicable to rural systems.</p> <p>There is a light schedule for Trauma System designations; and those visits will be done in the Fall.</p> <p>Mr. Reece reported that effective July 1, the Trauma Registry data will be used in allocation of the Trauma Fund.</p>	
Nominating Committee – Dr. Wentzel	<p>Dr. Wentzel read the recommendations from the Nominating Committee for EMS Advisory Board Officers and Committee Chairs:</p> <p>MOTION: Chair – Karen Wagner First Vice Chair – Randy Abernathy Second Vice Chair – Jennie Collins Awards Committee – Karen Wagner Communications Committee – Gary Critzer CISM – Linda Johnson</p>	<p>The floor was opened for additional nominations, and hearing none, the vote was taken.</p> <p>YEAS = 21; NAYS = 0; ABSTNETIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>

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	2008 Dates for EMS Advisory Board Town Forums: March 20, 2008 – Thomas Jefferson Region July 15, 2008 – Western EMS Council October 23, 2008 – Lord Fairfax EMS Council	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM	
Next Meeting	November 7, 2007 (Wednesday) at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.	